

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An information browse supporting method comprising:  
a first search condition information setting step of  
setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users,  
5 for searching for information suited to this user, as first  
search condition information on this user;

a second search condition information setting step of  
setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of  
users in a way that specifies other user, for searching  
10 information suited to this other user, as second search  
condition information on this other user;

an information searching step of searching, from within  
browsing target information containing a plurality of  
information elements, for an information element with respect  
15 to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition  
information set in said first search condition information  
setting step and the second search condition information set  
in said second search condition information setting step; and

an information presenting step of presenting to a certain  
20 user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result  
with respect to a certain user in said information searching  
step.

2. An information browse supporting method according to  
25 claim 1, wherein said second search condition information  
setting step involves setting the information inputted in such  
a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies other

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user to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the other user, and

said information presenting step involves presenting to  
5 a user pieces of information on the respective information elements searched with respect to this user, and presenting a piece of information indicating a setting user set as one element of mapping by way of the second search condition information with respect to the respective information elements  
10 searched based on the second search condition information.

3. An information browse supporting method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a second information searching step of searching, based  
15 on the second search condition information set by a certain user with respect to other user in said second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this other user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus searched information element  
20 is searched by the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step with respect to the other user; and

a second information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched  
25 result and a checked result with respect to a certain user in said second information searching step.

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4. An information browse supporting method according to claim 3, wherein the first search condition information contains one or more pieces of information consisting of a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether or not  
5 a permission of using this keyword is given to other user, and

said second information searching step involves performing the check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition  
10 information set in said first search condition information setting step with respect to other user indicates the permission of user.

5. An information browse supporting method according to  
15 any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein said second search condition information setting step involves generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information inputted in such a way that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user.

20 6. An information browse supporting method comprising:  
a first search condition information setting step of making a server set inputted by a user as a search condition corresponding to this user;

25 a second search condition information setting step of making said server set information by a user as a search condition corresponding to a user other than this user; and

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a step of receiving from said server a result of searching based on the conditions set corresponding to the users in said first and second search condition information setting steps.

5 7. A program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

10 a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as first search condition information on this user;

15 a second search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user on this other user;

20 an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step and the second search condition information set in said second search condition information setting step; and

25 an information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result with respect to a certain user in said information searching step.

8. An information browse supporting system comprising:

a first search condition information storing unit of storing information, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as first search condition information on this user;

5 a second search condition information storing unit of storing information, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user on this other user;

10 an information searching unit of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition information stored in said first search condition information storing unit and the second search condition information stored  
15 in said second search condition information storing unit; and

an information-presenting unit of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result with respect to a certain user by said information-searching  
20 unit.

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